

similar to that of urine ($\text{pH} = 5.8$) lost about 40 per cent of their activity on standing for sixty-two days. At a still higher degree of acidity, i. e., about like that of gastric juice ($\text{pH} = 4.3$), there was no demonstrable decomposition at the end of sixty-two days or on boiling for one hour. Therefore, solutions of cocain were found to be stable on standing and by boiling only when kept rather strongly acid.

The following simple directions are given by Rippel for the preparation of cocain solutions which can be sterilized without decomposition: The acidity of the solution is regulated by the addition of a weak acid so that when one or two drops of p-nitrophenol solution are added, only a weak yellowish color is obtained, and only a yellowish, but not violet color when one or two drops of alizarin sodium sulphonate solution are added. The cocain could be dissolved in a solution containing a mixture of one part of primary phosphate ($\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4\text{m}/15$) and nine parts of secondary phosphate ($\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4\text{m}/15$). This gives an acidity of $\text{pH}=5.8$, i. e., about like that of urine. Then the cocain solution can be boiled one hour and it can be allowed to stand at room temperature for two or three months without loss of activity. By adhering to these precautions, it is probable that a greater uniformity of anesthetic response will be obtained in practice. It is conceivable also that the toxicities and accidents from the use of cocain as a local anesthetic may be avoided, in part at least, if the unknown and variable concentration of cocain in solutions is avoided, and this can now be accomplished by preparing cocain solutions with proper chemical reaction.

The work of Rippel illustrates the practical importance—in fact, indispensability—of methods of precision, involving the principles of physical chemistry and of biology, to pharmacology for the rationalization of therapy, and, therefore, in clinical practice. In this case, a common, every-day local anesthetic is involved. Other agents, of course, have been and are being quite as fruitfully investigated.

Bibliography

Rippel, A.: Archiv. der Pharmazie, 1920, 258:287, "Über den Einfluss der Reaktion auf die Haltbarkeit von Kokainlösungen."

SOMETHING TO SHOOT AT

Following is the official registration of Fellows at a number of meetings of the American Medical Association:

1905	Portland, Ore.	1,680
1911	Los Angeles	2,153
1915	San Francisco	2,307
1916	Detroit	4,585
1917	New York	5,147
1918	Chicago	5,553
1919	Atlantic City	4,929
1920	New Orleans	3,681
1921	Boston	5,506
1922	St. Louis	5,174

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Satisfactory and encouraging progress continues to be made. Practically all of the numerous committees concerned with the convention itself, as well as with post-convention programs, have been completed and are all actively engaged in the discharge of their several duties. The chairmen of all committees, together with the representative elected officers of county societies, sections and of the State Society, constitute ex-officio the Central Committee. The entire membership of this committee is published on pages 223 and 224 of this number of the Journal. We will be very glad of any notations of corrections or omissions from this committee.

The Finance Committee is still struggling with the most important problem connected with the convention. This number of the Journal contains a separate editorial on this subject.

The General Entertainment Committee and the other committees, such as Golf, Outdoor Entertainment, Clubs, Women's Clubs, have completed their programs and will have all the details for a successful convention from a social standpoint well worked out in ample time. The Women's Entertainment Committee has completed a most attractive program for the entertainment of our women guests.

Committees having to do with post-convention activities have nearly all completed their programs and from now on are concerned only with the details of carrying out these programs. The post-convention program for July 2 and 3 constitutes one of the several innovations to be introduced at this session of the A. M. A. We have every reason to believe that it will prove attractive, interesting and unusually profitable, not only to physicians, but to the public.

Every member of the California Medical Association is a member of the General Reception Committee. As many as possible should attend the convention, register, and receive, and wear constantly during the convention and post-convention weeks, the special badge that has been prepared for that purpose.

"MEDICAL CALIFORNIA," the book being prepared by your committees for distribution to all Fellows and guests of the A. M. A., is now in press. It contains the entire program of all social and entertainment features; it discusses the points of interest throughout California that visiting physicians might like to see; it contains a considerable amount of data regarding public health, hospitals, number of physicians and their proportion to population, for the State as a whole and for each individual county. This book will be 148 pages in size, printed on the very finest of paper, with a cover done by one of the best artists in California, and profusely illustrated throughout. It is not a pamphlet, but a book of information about California, put in such a form that the holders of the 10,000 copies will want to keep them and use them for reference in the days to come.

The officers and members of committees of State

and county medical societies and of auxiliary medical organizations of the State, as well as all officers and chiefs of staff departments in all the accredited hospitals of the State, are appropriately listed in this book, with their addresses. This and all other data in the book is as complete and as accurate as it was possible to make it in such a short space of time. Those few centers that could not find the time to co-operate and furnish requested data for this book may feel a sense of disappointment when it appears.

However, the editor feels nothing but enthusiastic praise for the splendid co-operation that has been shown by nearly all the officers and members throughout the State, not only in accumulating data for this publication, but in all other matters connected with the organization of the vast undertaking of the Statewide Convention of the American Medical Association.

THE 1923 MEETING OF THE STATE SOCIETY

The program for this year's meeting of the State Society is being assembled and will be published in full in the June number of the Journal. This meeting, as is now quite generally known, will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 22 and 23, preceding the Seventy-fourth Annual Convention of the American Medical Association.

The program, although not so protracted as in former years, is exceedingly interesting, both from the standpoint of section meetings and the general meetings. Every member of the State Society should be present at the general meeting on Friday morning and that of the League on Saturday morning. Distinguished visiting Fellows of the A. M. A. will be on both programs.

Many matters of great importance to those interested in medical progress will be considered and decided in the name of the State Society at the meetings of the Council and of the House of Delegates.

ARE YOU A FELLOW OF THE A. M. A.?

Only "Fellows" are permitted to register at the American Medical Association meetings. In order to become a Fellow, a physician must:

- Be a member in good standing, with dues paid up, of a County Medical Society;
- Be a member of a State Society;
- Sign the application blank for Fellowship in the A. M. A. This application must be certified by the secretary of the State Society;
- Pay his A. M. A. Fellowship dues of \$6.00 a year and hold his Fellowship card.

Some physicians write us stating they thought themselves Fellows of the A. M. A., because they subscribed to the Journal. This, of course, is an error. Anyone can subscribe for the Journal, but there is only one way to become a Fellow, and that is as described above.

There are in California over five thousand physicians who should be members of their county and State societies and Fellows of the A. M. A. Actually, there are about 3700 who are members of their local and State societies and about two

thousand who are Fellows of the national association.

During the convention, the A. M. A. will be prepared to issue Fellowship cards to all who hold membership in county societies.

Don't you think you should attend to this promptly?

FINANCING THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

The Central Committee estimates the expenses connected with this convention at \$24,490. This estimate is itemized as follows:

Rents	\$ 640.00
Telephone and telegraph.....	500.00
Postage	300.00
Office supplies	300.00
Printing and mailing	3000.00
Multigraphing and mimeographing	250.00
Salaries and wages.....	2100.00
Office equipment and typewriter rental	600.00
Printing and illustrating book..	6000.00
Badges	400.00
Auditorium changes and furniture	1000.00
Opening meeting (hall, music, decorations, refreshments)....	400.00
Tea—Tuesday, June 26	1800.00
Luncheon — Wednesday, June 27	2400.00
Transportation	700.00
Golf prizes	100.00
President's reception	4000.00
Total	\$24490.00

This information is given in answer to inquiries from a few members of the State Society as to what money was needed for. It will be noted in examining this budget that no provision is made for special expenditures in other parts of the State for local entertainment. The Finance and Central Committees feel that members throughout the State should contribute whatever they can to the treasurer of the Central Committee for the general purposes of the convention as outlined above. In making contributions, it is hoped members in certain sections where post-convention activities will be carried on will bear in mind the fact that they will be expected to contribute locally to their own committee for purposes of their own local entertainment—this should be taken into consideration in making donations to the Central Committee.

The response to the second letter sent out by the chairman of the Finance Committee recently and to the editorial in the April number of the Journal has been very gratifying. However, we are still very far short of the amount of money that has already been authorized by the Central Committee and which must be provided by those who are willing to do their share in money, if not in service. Please send your check promptly to John Gallwey, Treasurer, 808 Balboa Building, for whatever you feel you can give.